

## REMOVAL OF WATER SOLUBILIZED ORGANICS

### Abstract of the Disclosure

Methods and compositions for removing organics solubilized in a water-like fluid (WSO), such as the water produced in connection with the production of hydrocarbons from subterranean formations, are described. Hydrophilic  $\alpha$ -hydroxy-monocarboxylic acids (AHAs), such as hydroxyacetic (glycolic) acid, alone or optionally together with anionic polymers, have been found to be effective. The compositions and methods of this invention have reduced corrosion and scale formation problems as compared with other methods employing stronger acids to remove WSO. The AHAs have  $pK_a$ 's of greater than 3.8.